

should welcome faith. So I have signed an Executive order allowing religious charities who seek Government support to compete for funding on a level playing field. I call on Congress to codify my Faith-Based Initiative into law, so that people of faith can know Government will never discriminate against them again.

It is my responsibility as your President to make sure the judicial system runs well, and I am meeting that duty. I have nominated superb men and women for the Federal courts, people who will strictly interpret the law, not legislate from the bench as activist judges. Some Members of the Senate are resorting to unprecedented tactics to block votes on my good nominees. This is unfair to the nominees and damaging to the judicial system. Every nominee deserves a fair hearing and a timely vote on the Senate floor. It is time for those Senators to stop playing politics with American justice.

These years have brought trials we did not ask for and challenges we never expected to face. We have worked together, and we are rising to meet the duties of our time. Now we look forward with confidence and faith toward greater security and wider prosperity and a stronger culture of life. We pray always for God's guidance and strength in our lives and for this great nation.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak to this convention. I'm sorry I couldn't be there in person. May God bless all of you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 3:51 p.m. from the Map Room at the White House to the annual meeting in Indianapolis, IN. In his remarks, he referred to Jack Graham, president, Southern Baptist Convention; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Notice of Intention To Enter Into a Free Trade Agreement With Bahrain

June 15, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002, (Public Law 107-210; the "Trade Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intent to enter into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Government of Bahrain.

This agreement will create new opportunities for America's workers, farmers, businesses, and consumers by eliminating barriers in trade with Bahrain. Entering into an FTA with Bahrain will not only strengthen our bilateral ties with this important ally, it will also advance my goal of a U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Area (MEFTA) by 2013.

Consistent with the Trade Act, I am sending this notification at least 90 days in advance of signing the United States-Bahrain FTA. My Administration looks forward to working with the Congress in developing appropriate legislation to approve and implement this free trade agreement.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,

June 15, 2004.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at the Congressional Barbecue June 15, 2004

Thank you all for coming. So the Vice President and I were sitting around saying, "I wonder if we can get some people to come to a barbecue here on the South Lawn." We're glad you came. Laura and I and Lynne and Dick are really pleased to host you all for the annual Congressional Barbecue. We want to thank the Rich Davis family from Kansas City for providing the barbecue and the White House staff for providing the napkins. *[Laughter]*

I think the best thing I can tell you is how much I appreciate the families of the Members of Congress for supporting your husbands and wives and moms and dads as they serve our great country. It is a—the Members of Congress work really hard on behalf of the people of the country. And they're gone a lot from their homes, and I know it's hard. It's hard to wonder whether or not the service is worth it. I'm telling you, the service is worth it. We are a great nation because men and women from all walks of life are willing to serve our country. So we really appreciate you being here.

I also want to thank the Marine Band, the Army Band, the Navy Band, the Air

Force Band, and the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps for providing the entertainment tonight.

And our wish is that you enjoy yourself on the beautiful South Lawn of this majestic house that Laura and I are fortunate to live in. Every day we are reminded about the greatness of our country, and we are a great country. We're a great country because we believe in human dignity and the rights of every person. We're a great country because we believe that no matter who you are or where you're from, you can succeed in America. We're a great country because free men and women can self-govern in a peaceful way, and we're a great country because we are blessed by the Almighty God.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless. Enjoy yourself.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:15 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rich Davis, founder, KC Masterpiece Barbecue and Grill restaurants.

Remarks at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida June 16, 2004

Thanks for coming. Thanks for the warm welcome. It is great to be back in Florida with the fine men and women of MacDill Air Force Base. You know, I told my dad I was coming here today, and he suggested I drop in by parachute. *[Laughter]* I told him I thought I'd wait for my 80th birthday. *[Laughter]*

With us today by satellite are American service men and women in Afghanistan and

Iraq. You are stationed in faraway lands, but you're always in the thoughts of your fellow Americans. You face hard duty. You've endured the heat of the Persian Gulf and the harsh winters of central Asia. You're serving with honor and pride. You're making our country safer, and your country is proud of you. Thank you for your service.

I also know that we're on Armed Forces radio and TV. We're carried to the bases